



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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July 1, 2008 Crop Production
For immediate release: July 11, 2008
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Based on July 1 conditions, Montana's **all wheat** production is expected to be 159.7 million bushels, up 7 percent from last year, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. The area for harvest is expected to be 5.5 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. **Winter wheat** yield is forecast to be 37.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year. Production is forecast to be 90.7 million bushels, up 9 percent from last year. Nine percent of the winter wheat has turned color for the week ending July 6 compared with 60 percent last year and 53 percent for the five-year average.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 56.4 million bushels, up 2 percent from last year's production due to higher harvested acreage. The expected yield of 23.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last year. The harvested acres are expected to be 2.45 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. For the week ending July 6, the spring wheat crop was 36 percent headed compared with 53 percent last year and 51 percent for the five-year average. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 12.7 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. The expected yield of 21.0 bushels per acre is down 3 bushels from last year. Harvested acreage is expected to be 605,000 acres, up 27 percent from 2007.

Barley yields are expected to average 43.0 bushels per acre in 2008, 1 bushel below last year. Barley production is forecast to be 33.5 million bushels compared with 31.7 million bushels last year. Growers expect to harvest 780,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2007. Barley crop progress is behind last year, with 86 percent reaching boot stage and 47 percent headed. **Oat** producers expect to harvest 1.9 million bushels of grain, 2 percent more than last year. The 2008 harvested acreage is expected to be 35,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. The expected yield of 53.0 bushels per acre is 1 bushel above last year's yield.

Dry edible pea producers in Montana planted 232,000 acres, down 1 percent from a year ago. Producers are expecting to harvest 214,000 acres. **Austrian winter pea** producers planted 19,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from last year. Producers expect to harvest 4,000 acres of this year's crop as peas. **Lentil** growers planted 84,000 acres this year, down 3 percent from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 82,000 acres of lentils. Montana **potato** producers planted 10,900 acres in 2008, down 4 percent from last year. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 10, 2008.

The U.S. **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 23 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 12 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 1.04 billion bushels, is up 1 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 607 million bushels, is up 6 percent from the last forecast. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 218 million bushels. Of this total, 23.3 million bushels are Hard White and 194 million bushels are Soft White.

Nationally, other **spring wheat** production is forecast at 507 million bushels, 6 percent above 2007. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 13.8 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 6 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 36.8 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from 2007. Of the total production, 471 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 5 percent from last year. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 89.9 million bushels, up 25 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 34.8 bushels per acre, 0.9 bushel above last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 2.58 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 22 percent from last year.

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U.S. **barley** production for 2008 is forecast at 218 million bushels, 3 percent above 2007. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 59.8 bushels per acre, down less than 1 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain or seed, at 3.64 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2007. **Oat** production is forecast at 92.9 million bushels, 1 percent above last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. If realized, this will be the second lowest production on record. Based on conditions as of July 1, the yield is forecast at 64.4 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from 2007. Growers expect to harvest 1.44 million acres for grain or seed, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area on record.

Planted area of **dry edible peas** in the United States is estimated at 847,000 acres, down less than 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 807,800 acres, is also down less than 1 percent from a year ago. Planted area of **Austrian winter peas** is estimated at 26,500 acres, down 9 percent from 2007. Area harvested is forecast at 8,800 acres, down 20 percent from a year ago. **Lentils** planted area is estimated at 279,000 acres, up less than 1 percent from the March planting intentions but 8 percent below 2007. Harvested area is estimated at 272,000 acres, down 8 percent from last year.

Fall **potatoes** area planted for 2008 is estimated at 929,100 acres, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 916,200 acres, also down 8 percent from 2007 and 7 percent below 2006.

Crop contacts: Thomas Chard for oats, spring wheat, durum wheat, winter wheat, and potatoes and Lindsey Houska for barley, dry peas, Austrian winter peas, and lentils.

July 1, 2008 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/
		(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres			(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	2,240.0	2,600.0	2,190.0	2,450.0	38.0	37.0	83,220	90,650
Durum Wheat	Bu	480.0	610.0	475.0	605.0	24.0	21.0	11,400	12,705
Spring Wheat	Bu	2,450.0	2,500.0	2,400.0	2,450.0	23.0	23.0	55,200	56,350
All Wheat	Bu	5,170.0	5,710.0	5,065.0	5,505.0	29.6	29.0	149,820	159,705
Barley	Bu	900.0	910.0	720.0	780.0	44.0	43.0	31,680	33,540
Oats	Bu	75.0	65.0	35.0	35.0	52.0	53.0	1,820	1,855
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	84.0	65.0	38.0	22.0	145.0	7/	5,510	7/
Sugar Beets	Tons	47.5	31.6	47.0	31.2	24.7	3/	1,161	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	11.3	10.9	11.2	10.8	330.0	6/	3,696	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt	18.3	16.0	16.6	14.5	16.7	4/	278	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt	235.0	232.0	217.0	214.0	17.0	6/	3,689	6/
Lentils	Cwt	87.0	84.0	85.0	82.0	9.9	6/	842	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	20.0	19.0	4.0	4.0	6.5	6/	26	6/
Canola	Lbs	8.0	10.0	7.7	9.5	1,310.0	5/	10,087	5/
Flaxseed	Bu	21.0	10.0	20.0	9.0	9.0	7/	180	7/
Safflower	Lbs	38.0	32.0	36.5	30.5	830.0	7/	30,295	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650.0	1,650.0	2.3	3/	3,795	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900.0	1,000.0	1.5	3/	1,350	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,550.0	2,650.0	2.0	3/	5,145	3/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres			(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	44,987.0	46,605.0	35,952.0	40,252.0	42.2	46.3	1,515,989	1,864,245
Durum Wheat	Bu	2,149.0	2,655.0	2,112.0	2,583.0	33.9	34.8	71,686	89,873
Spring Wheat	Bu	13,297.0	14,197.0	12,947.0	13,751.0	37.0	36.8	479,047	506,568
All Wheat	Bu	60,433.0	63,457.0	51,011.0	56,586.0	40.5	43.5	2,066,722	2,460,686
Barley	Bu	4,020.0	4,130.0	3,508.0	3,640.0	60.4	59.8	211,825	217,819
Oats	Bu	3,760.0	3,467.0	1,505.0	1,443.0	60.9	64.4	91,599	92,872
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	93,600.0	87,327.0	86,542.0	78,940.0	151.1	3/	13,073,893	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,268.8	1,080.1	1,246.8	1,027.3	25.6	3/	31,912	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	1,010.6	929.1	996.7	916.2	410.0	6/	409,082	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,526.9	1,398.0	1,478.7	1,339.2	17.2	4/	25,371	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt	847.5	847.0	811.3	807.8	19.6	6/	15,903	6/
Lentils	Cwt	303.0	279.0	295.0	272.0	11.6	6/	3,408	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	29.0	26.5	11.0	8.8	11.6	6/	127	6/
Canola	Lbs	1,183.0	1,008.0	1,163.0	979.0	1,250.0	5/	1,453,830	5/
Flaxseed	Bu	354.0	340.0	349.0	333.0	16.9	7/	5,904	7/
Safflower	Lbs	180.0	191.0	172.0	183.0	1,215.0	7/	208,995	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,670.0	20,778.0	3.35	3/	72,575	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,955.0	39,661.0	1.95	3/	77,729	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,625.0	60,439.0	2.44	3/	150,304	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available August 12, 2008. 4/ Forecast available September 12, 2008. 5/ Forecast available October 10, 2008. 6/ Forecast available November 10, 2008. 7/ Forecast available January 12, 2009 -- Not published.